

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 16, 2009

The Honorable John Spratt  
Chairman  
House Committee on Budget  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Budget  
B-71 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt and Ranking Member Ryan:

As you develop the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Resolution, we respectfully request that you reject President Obama's proposed cuts to the Market Access Program (MAP) and maintain full funding for this important program.

By helping improve access to overseas markets through consumer promotion, market research, and technical assistance, MAP benefits American farmers and the nation's economy, while improving our trade balance and creating jobs.

Supporting American farmers and farm communities must be a part of getting our economy back on track. At a time when our nation is struggling to create jobs and our government is spending hundreds of billions to boost the economy, we believe cuts to MAP represent a step in the wrong direction. It is difficult to understand why cuts to MAP are necessary while an increase is being proposed for the overall Department of Agriculture budget for next year.

MAP benefits many specialty crop growers and processors who do not receive subsidy payments. MAP funds are used by nonprofit commodity organizations and broad based agriculture groups that represent farmers and agriculture producers across the nation. Not only must program participants generate significant nonfederal matching funds, but they must also provide detailed records of their expenses that are subject to audits. In addition, applications for MAP funds undergo a competitive review process and all program participants must demonstrate effective performance.

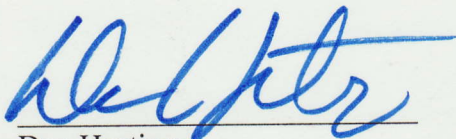
MAP is a proven and effective program that is particularly important to the economy in rural communities and trade-dependent states. Congress set the authorized level of MAP funding at \$200 million next year in the latest Farm Bill. We encourage



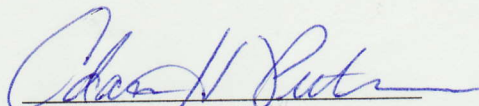
you to maintain the full level of funding for this important program in the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Resolution.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

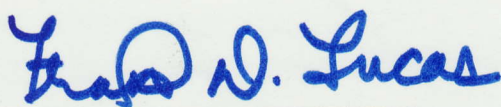
Sincerely,



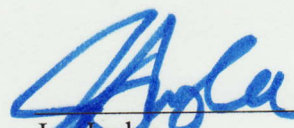
Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress



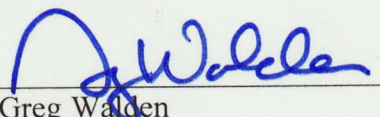
Adam Putnam  
Member of Congress



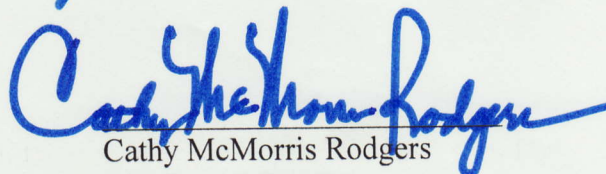
Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress



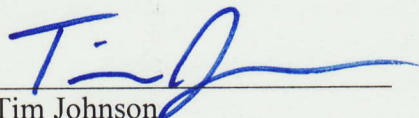
Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



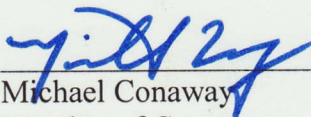
Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



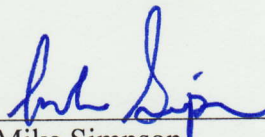
Tim Johnson  
Member of Congress



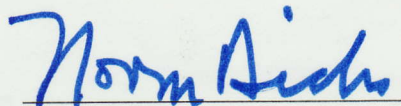
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress



Norm Dicks  
Member of Congress



David P. Roe  
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Jerry Moran

Jerry Moran  
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Thaddeus G. McCotter

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Christopher Lee

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